



Missouri Renewable-Fuels Standard Approved by Missouri Legislature

Legislation requires gasoline sold in Missouri to contain ethanol blend

In 2006, the Missouri General Assembly approved House legislation, handled by Sen. Cauthorn in the Senate, that offers a number of benefits to Missouri consumers and farm families. House Bill 1270 requires most gasoline sold in Missouri to contain at least a 10 percent ethanol blend. The renewable-fuels standard will mean relief at the pump for Missouri motorists, less dependence on foreign oil, cleaner-burning gasoline and new markets for Missouri farmers.

The ethanol standard will be in place by Jan. 1, 2008. Ethanol is a renewable product made from fermented agricultural products, such as corn or sugar. All motor vehicles manufactured since the 1970s can run on a 10 percent ethanol blend. To ensure HB 1270 does not cost taxpayers more at the pump, any time the price of ethanol is higher than the cost of gasoline, the



Sen. Cauthorn speaks at a Missouri Corn Growers Association rally on the steps of the state Capitol in Jefferson City.

10 percent ethanol standard will be suspended.

This new ethanol standard will provide innumerable benefits for Missourians and the environment. Ethanol is cheaper than unleaded gasoline, so the 10 percent standard should provide some relief to Missouri drivers. Meanwhile, by fueling our vehicles with ethanol produced from American corn and refined right here in Missouri's ethanol plants, we can reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. We can stabilize our energy situation by avoiding the chaotic international oil market in favor of energy produced by Missourians.

Finally, the ethanol blend will make for gasoline that burns cleaner. Ethanol contains oxygen, which results in decreased tailpipe emissions and fewer greenhouse gases in our environment. As a result, our automobile emissions pollute less.

Stay In Touch With Senator John Cauthorn

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Dear Friends,

My colleagues and I in the Missouri General Assembly last year set the state on a course for success by creating a more efficient government while encouraging job growth. We made important strides in keeping health-care costs down and doctors from leaving our state. We revamped an abused workers' compensation system. A new education formula replaced a broken, inadequate funding system. With state government needing to live within its means, we passed a balanced budget without a tax increase.

This year we're continuing along the same course. In this report, I've outlined several issues of particular importance to me:

Funeral protests: Families of fallen veterans will not have to endure political protests during military funerals.

Sexual predators: Harsher sentencing and new law enforcement mechanisms are now in place to crack down on those who prey on the most vulnerable.

Farming technology: Lawmakers are working to discover agricultural innovations.

Eminent domain: The rights of property owners are strengthened with new laws.

This is my final year in the Missouri Senate, due to term limits. It has been an honor to serve the good people of Northeast Missouri since 2001. Thank you all for your support, and I'll see you back in the district.

Sincerely,



John Cauthorn
Senator
18th Senate District



Restricting Funeral Protests: Respecting our Fallen Heroes

This year, the Missouri Legislature approved legislation protecting the privacy and dignity of the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty.

Although funeral protests might seem an odd subject to those unfamiliar with the issue, the acts of a few have proven so reprehensible that legislation was needed. Sadly, certain citizens regularly attend funerals of American soldiers who have died in combat to spread a message of hatred and intolerance. The time to commemorate the sacrifices of these brave Americans has become a time when protesters celebrate the deaths of soldiers directly in front of grieving family members. Protesters taunt and berate mourning families in an attempt to draw attention to their political views. Legislative steps were needed to correct this injustice.



Sens. Cauthorn and David Klindt discuss legislation on the floor of the Missouri Senate.

This legislation was introduced after a protest at the funeral of Edward Lee Myers, a St. Joseph resident and specialist with the U.S. Army. Spc. Myers was killed by a car bomb on July 27, 2005, in Samarra, Iraq. He was just 21 years old.

Although the Constitutional free-speech rights of all Americans must be respected, no family should ever have to lose a loved one and then have to endure the situation experienced by the Myers family.

Senate Bill 578 prohibits individuals from protesting at funerals in Missouri one hour prior to the beginning of any funeral service and until one hour after the service has concluded. This measure helps to protect the families of those fighting for freedom. American soldiers and their families deserve respect.

Protecting Families: Cracking Down on Sex Predators

Lawmakers this year passed legislation cracking down on sexual predators to ensure that the most dangerous offenders receive adequate prison sentences. Gov. Blunt signed the bill into law June 6, and the measure went into effect immediately because it contains an emergency clause.

Sexual predators who commit crimes against children are going to receive hard jail time under provisions contained in the new omnibus crime bill, House Bill 1698. Under the measure, sex offenders who commit forcible rape or sodomy of a child under age 12 will be sentenced to prison for life without eligibility for parole for 30 years. Those convicted of enticing or attempting to entice a child for a sexual purpose will receive a prison sentence of between five and 30 years under the law.

The measure also gives probation and parole officers access to sex offenders' home computers, requires the Missouri Highway Patrol to operate a toll-free hotline to help disseminate information regarding sex offenders, and

allows the publication of sex offender information in newspapers.



The legislation also includes a provision to combat sex offenders who entice children over the Internet, which is increasingly hazardous for children. Law enforcement did not have enough resources to protect Missouri children from Internet predators and child pornographers. As a result, lawmakers approved a program to fund the hiring of more cyber detectives across Missouri to go after Internet predators. So far, lawmakers have appropriated \$250,000 to start the program, and there are initiatives to increase funding in coming years.

This legislation is needed to protect Missouri children and send a message to sexual predators that if they prey on defenseless children, then they will pay. Children may be helpless, but adults are not. It is the responsibility of lawmakers and law enforcers to shelter children from criminals who seek to do them harm and put those criminals behind bars.

Virtual Schools Extend the Reach of Education

Lawmakers also sent to the governor this year a bill implementing a new system for public education. Senate Bill 912 establishes a virtual school program that utilizes the Internet to reach children at home.

Under the program, students use a personal computer to access lessons modeled on in-class instruction. Virtual schools would be subject to all laws applicable to Missouri public school districts. The measure is endorsed by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Missouri School Boards Association and the Missouri State Teachers Association.

The program does not intend for virtual schools to replace public schools or to serve as a way to streamline homeschooling. Instead, the new system is designed to reach students with special needs.

For example, students with Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) can have difficulty being productive in a classroom setting. With a virtual school, the students can use a computer at home to access lessons mirroring the in-classroom instruction of other students in that grade level. Interaction with teachers and students enrolled in the virtual school will also be made possible via chat rooms and other online social connections.

The students would still be active participants in their school districts, which will continue to receive state funding for maintaining the student-teacher link. Students in small school districts who want to take courses not offered in their districts and those who are temporarily homebound also would benefit. An estimated 2 to 4 percent of the public school body would be enrolled.

A virtual school in Missouri will enhance student opportunities to receive a public education in an environment that is conducive to learning.

Capitol Visitors from the 18th Senate District



Visitors from throughout the 18th Senate District visited Sen. Cauthorn in the Capitol this year.



Clearing Brush Growth in Northeast Missouri

Excessive brush growth along Missouri highways, which attracts wildlife to roadways and creates eyesores, will soon be mowed. The Missouri Department of Transportation has detailed its plan to mow along roadways in a letter to Sen. Cauthorn.

According to the MoDOT letter, in 2004 the department's District 3 staff opted for a final mow-out every

other year. Last year the mow-out was postponed, causing roadside brush to grow out of control.

MoDOT now commits to mowing from fence row to fence row. Further, brush will be treated to prevent growth.

Property owners along highways in Northeast Missouri had their property taken over by brush, and Sen. Cauthorn is pleased that MoDOT has responded to the issue.

The Budget: Staying Accountable to Taxpayers

The Legislature this year passed a state budget that will provide for critical functions of state government but is also responsible to taxpayers. The \$20.8 billion budget, made up of House Bills 1001-1013, represents Missouri's expected appropriations and revenues for the 2007 fiscal year, which began July 1 of this year.

This year's budget fulfills Missouri's commitment to public education, with full funding for the state's K-12 foundation formula. The school spending plan will receive a \$127 million increase and an additional \$15 million to fund the Small Schools Grant program. In recognition that higher education is an investment in Missouri's future, this budget includes more than \$17 million in new funds for two- and four-year public colleges and universities.

The FY 2007 spending plan allocates a \$400 million funding increase for road and bridge construction and

maintenance. It also includes plans for the use of more than \$380 million in bond proceeds for the Missouri Department of Transportation made possible by Missouri voters' adoption of Amendment 3 in 2004.

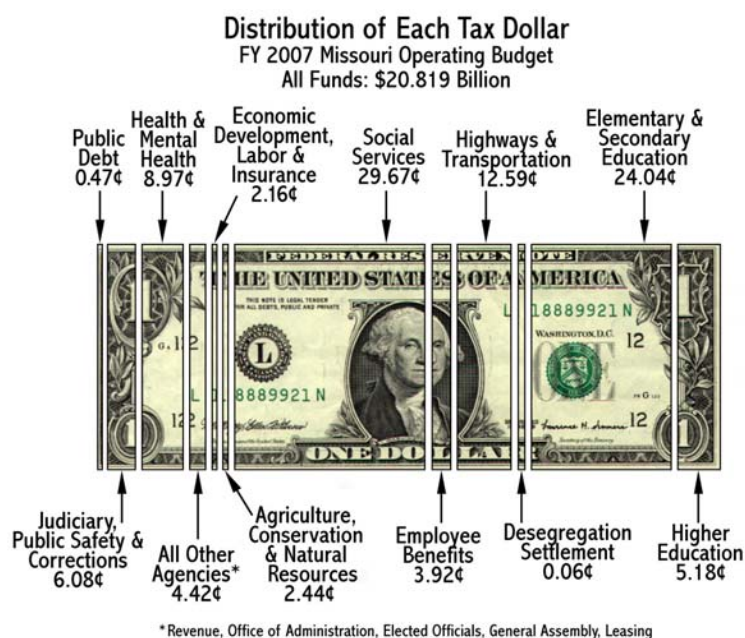
The budget also furthers the goal of shrinking the size of government. We have reduced the number of state employees to below 60,000, the lowest since Fiscal Year 1999. At the same time, the budget recognizes the hard work of Missouri's state employees by providing a 4 percent pay raise for all state workers except elected officials.

The FY 2007 budget also includes \$25 million for the new Healthcare Technology Fund, a \$5.8 million increase for ethanol and biodiesel, funding increases for Medicaid, veterans and the highway patrol, and funds for an Internet sex offender task force.

Where Your Tax Dollars Go

Total FY 2007 Missouri Operating Appropriations

All Funds (state and federal):
\$20.819 billion



Funding for Hannibal Nutrition Center

Senior citizens visiting the Hannibal Nutrition Center (HNC) are one step closer to visiting an expanded and improved facility. The Missouri Senate this year approved House Bill 1010, which includes Sen. Cauthorn's \$75,000 budget item for expanding the HNC.

Demand and popularity of the Hannibal Nutrition

Center has caused the center to outgrow its current capacity. A fundraising campaign will seek approximately \$200,000 with planned expansion underway by 2007.

This money is a spark plug to get this project up and going. Sen. Cauthorn encourages everyone in the Hannibal area to join the state in supporting HNC.

21st-Century Technology for 21st-Century Family Farms

Missouri entrepreneurs may soon end the debate over animal-agriculture facilities and ensure productive farms and cleaner air.

Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons formed a special Senate Committee on Fuel, Waste and the Environment and named Sen. Cauthorn chairman. The committee is charged with exploring innovative animal- and human-waste management practices to create energy, protect Missouri's environment, solve odor issues and sustain rural economic development.

Innovative technology is the bridge that will unite folks on animal-agriculture facilities. There are some negative emotions out there now, and animal agriculture is on the chopping block, but the entrepreneurial spirit can solve these problems and save Missouri farms.

Several entities this year provided expert testimony at various hearings and events. One Missouri-based company is working on a two-step process to improve hog farms. First, their patented air scrubber removes 80 percent of odor emissions from animal confinements, according to an Iowa State University study. Second, a system to turn swine waste to crude oil creates new energy sources.

Cleaning the air is key in ensuring farming operations are good neighbors. Turning waste into crude oil helps our energy supply and returns the investment for farmers

determined to improve their facilities.

A small Missouri company focuses on providing value-added products and services to agriculture. The primary product addresses the issue of odor abatement and provides a new approach to the health and well-being of livestock. Products such as this offer U.S. animal agriculture the opportunity to use a product that has produced positive results in Europe for more than 40 years.

In Northeast Missouri, technology is catching up with farming to end odor issues.

Earlier this year, the Senate and House Agriculture Committee chairmen joined Sen. Cauthorn in not filing confined-animal-feeding-operation (CAFO) legislation. This good-faith effort was meant to provide a "cooling down" period for both sides.

The livelihood of family farm operations is an emotional issue — for the farmers who want to stay in business and for their neighbors. Both sides need to step back, take a breath, and let these technologies bridge the gap.

Many individuals interested in agricultural operations are looking forward to bringing together university research, entrepreneurial spirit and practicality. This is about working together to solve problems, not pointing fingers. Sustaining rural development is about finding answers and building coalitions among neighbors.



Senator Cauthorn's 2006 Gubernatorial Appointments



Top left: Harriet Beard, of Kirksville, is appointed to the Missouri Well Installation Board. Bottom left: Annie Dixon, of Hannibal, is appointed to the Missouri Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners. Top right: Elizabeth Grove, of Monroe City, is appointed to the Safe Drinking Water Commission. Bottom right: Jaye Jackson, of Mexico, is appointed to the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.



Closing the Door on Eminent Domain Abuse

In last year's *Kelo v. City of New London* (Conn.) case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that governments are legally allowed to seize the homes of citizens so that private developers can use the land to build new businesses. This judicial activism leaves the door open for the abuse of property rights.

However, the court ruled that states can pass laws limiting the purposes for which eminent domain can be used. This year, Missouri lawmakers passed legislation modifying state laws on eminent domain.

House Bill 1944 prohibits eminent domain from being used solely for economic development. The legislation



also prohibits farmland from being considered "blighted."

HB 1944 also requires factors such as fair market value and heritage value to be considered when deciding fair compensation for property taken through eminent domain. Those who have had their homes taken by a condemning authority are required to receive 25 percent more than the home's value. Under the heritage-value provision, homes, farms or businesses that have been in the same extended family for at least 50 years will automatically receive an additional 50 percent of the land's value. These provisions offer needed protections to Missouri property owners.

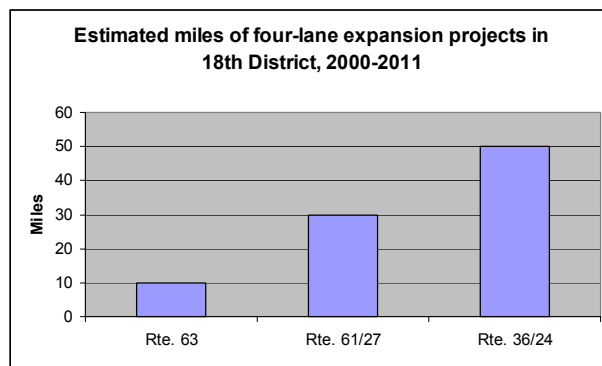
Transportation: Paving the Way to Improved Roads

In recent years, Missouri has focused intently on improving roads and bridges in our state. Transportation upgrades spur economic activity in Missouri and make driving safer and more convenient.

Between 2000 and 2006, there were a total of 710 miles of various paving projects completed in the 18th Senate District. These improvements were made in 142 road projects and included resurfacing, diamond grinding, turn-lane additions, and intersection or crossover improvements. The figure excludes paving related to bridge projects or new four-lane expansions.

Estimated miles of four-lane expansion projects completed between 2000 and 2006 or scheduled for construction between 2006 and 2011 are as follows:

- Rte. 63** - 10 miles
- Rte. 61/27** - 30 miles
- Rte. 36/24** - 50 miles



Source: Missouri Department of Transportation

In November 2004, Missouri voters overwhelmingly approved Amendment 3, a common-sense constitutional measure that redirects funds from the state vehicle tax for the maintenance of Missouri roads. The amendment took effect in 2005 and will be fully phased in over four years.

In 2005, MoDOT unveiled the Smooth Roads Initiative, a plan to provide 2,200 miles of smoother roads, brighter road markings and other safety improvements over the course of three years. Other parts of this initiative will use Amendment 3 funds to improve state highways by accelerating current and high-impact projects.

By the time it is fully implemented in 2009, \$180 million in annual funding will be added to the MoDOT budget. Funding from passage of this vital amendment will provide thousands of miles of smooth pavement on Missouri's most heavily traveled highways.

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